PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Farmers' State Alliance

OF

NORTH CAROLINA

HELD NEAR

HILLSBORO, N. C., AUGUST 11-12, 1908.

J. E. PETERSON, President, Goldsboro, N. C.
GEO. F. PARROTT, Sec.-Treas., Hillsboro, N. C.

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LIST OF OFFICERS.

J. E. Peterson, President.....Goldsboro, N. C.
John A. Davis, Vice-President.....Tarboro, N. C.
George F. Parrott, Secretary-Treasurer.....Hillsboro, N. C.
H. M. Cates, Lecturer.....Swepsonville, N. C.
C. C. Williams, Chaplain.....R. F. D. 2, Mebane, N. C
J. C. Bain, Steward.....Wade, N. C.
George T. Lane, Seargeant-at-Arms.....Greensboro, N. C.
George F. Parrott, State Business Agent.....Hillsboro, N. C.
W. A. Graham, Trustee B. A. Fund.....Raleigh, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. W. Denmark, Chairman.....Raleigh, N. C.
John Graham.....Warrenton, N. C.
R. H. Speight.....Whitaker, N. C.
T. J. Oldham.....R. F. D. No. 2, Mebane, N. C.
W. B. Fleming.....Ridgeway, N. C.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

J. M. Mitchell, Chairman.....Goldsboro, N. C.
F. D. Edgerton.....Ingleside, N. C.
C. C. McClelland.....Godwin, N. C.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Calling roll by counties—each delegate answering to his name, who will thereupon present his credentials to the Secretary.
2. Reading of the Daily Minutes.
3. Appointment of Committees.
4. Report of Officers.
5. Report of Committees.
6. Motions and Resolutions.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Installation of Officers.

PROCEEDINGS.

Alliance Headquarters,
Hillsboro, N. C., August 11, 1908.

The Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina was called to order in Alliance Hall, at Headquarters, on August 11, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon, by President Joseph E. Peterson. After the opening in regular order, the roll of counties was called and the following delegates presented their credentials and were seated:

Alamance—A. O. Huffman, Burlington, N. C.
Beaufort—T. D. Braxton, ...
Bertie—J. L. D. Perry, Coleraine, N. C.
Chatham—B. W. Bobbitt and W. H. Tyler, Goldston, N. C.
Columbus—J. E. Thompson, ...
Cumberland—S. J. McLaurin, Fayetteville, N. C.
Davidson—A. M. Hunter, Lexington, N. C.
Edgecombe—Jno. A. Davis, Tarboro, N. C.
Franklin—H. H. Hines, Springhope, N. C., R. F. D. 2.
Guilford—D. A Montgomery, Greensboro, N. C.
Johnston—J. R. Hines, Kenly, N. C., R. F. D. 2.
Lincolnton—W. A. Graham, Machpelah, N. C.
Lenoir—Oscar Hardy, Seven Springs, N. C.
Martin—D. T. Ward, Robersonville, N. C.
Orange—T. M. Sykes, Hillsboro, N. C.
Robeson—L. E. Tyner, ...
Rowan—T. P. Johnson, Salisbury, N. C.
Wake—J. W. Denmark, Raleigh, N. C.
Warren—W. S. Gardner, Macon, N. C.
Wayne—J. S. Davis, Goldsboro, N. C.
Wayne—George Moore, Genoa, N. C.
Wilson—Prof. A. R. Flowers, Taylor, N. C.

Vice President J. A. McAllister not having arrived, Bro. Jno. A. Davis, of Edgecombe, was invited to occupy his seat, pro tem. The organization of the State Alliance then being complete, President Peterson delivered his Annual Address as follows:

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Brethren of the North Carolina Farmers' Alliance:—Another year has rapidly passed and we are gathered together on this pleasant occasion in the Twenty-Second Annual Session of our organization. A kind Providence has smiled upon us in large measures notwithstanding the cries of panic and disaster in the financial world. The average conservative citizen has seen little cause for this, and has gone on with renewed energy and hopeful

heart. There is little doubt but the few who would profit by the distress of their fellow-man have intensified every possible condition to precipitate financial trouble.

If it had not been for our organization and co-operation by similar orders in the face of such pressure, the products of our labors would have been sold far below the cost of production. One lesson we ought to have learned well—market our crops slowly and carefully.

ORGANIZATION.

As these conditions under strong speculative effort may arise at almost any time, it behooves the farmer to realize his right in the premises, and while we are at peace with those in other vocations, and wish all God's speed in the race of life for an honest existence we must not forget the importance of thorough organization and unity of action and purpose to maintain a fair recognition of our side of the question. Every other interest is organized; we must not be the exception.

We are doing more now to command the respect and attention of the world than ever before; we need to interest and enlist every desirable and qualified person to join hands with us in trying to better our mutual conditions.

NEW LIFE.

The past year has been one of new life for the Farmers' Alliance, more new Sub Alliances formed, more old ones that had become dormant revived, and larger numbers of substantial members added than any like period in many years. I am gratified and rejoice with you in this progress and hopeful outlook for the future. This encouragement must stimulate us for greater effort in the coming year.

PRINTERS' INK.

We need to reach our membership through newspaper communications more than we are doing, while all the papers of the State so far as I know have dealt kindly with us during the past year, and some of them have been especially considerate of us, yet some time for lack of space, articles of interest to the Alliance have to be pruned so as to lose their true meaning and purpose.

Naturally, we feel that **The Progressive Farmer** is more closely connected with us than many other papers. While this paper has to reach many interests of our agricultural people, we regard no interest of more importance than perfect organization of the farmers. It may be that a column of this paper could be secured for reaching our organization, at a small cost. I am sure if this can not be done that they will give reasonable space for all articles of interest to our Alliance that represents so many subscribers to this valuable paper.

FREIGHT RATES.

The reduction or equality in freight rates so strongly advocated by my predecessor, and so justly expected by the merchants

and farmers of North Carolina, has not been obtained; instead, there is said to be an effort on the part of some railroads for an increase in what now appears excessive rates. We desire to see the most cordial relation existing between the great masses of the people and the railroads. This can be brought about by a desire on the part of all concerned to do what is right and fair. If these things cannot be recognized, then public opinion will grow until the demand is imperative.

FERTILIZERS.

After a complication of matters, our efficient Business Agent made an arrangement about certain brands of fertilizers that bore the "Alliance Brands." This seemed the best thing he could do at the time. I would recommend that a more definite understanding be reached at an early date in regard to these matters. About this, however, our Business Agent can more fully explain.

EDUCATION.

There is an increasing desire among our people to avail themselves of every opportunity to gain knowledge, especially is this true along agricultural lines. We believe that in the future more attention will be devoted to this at the A. & M. College. The Institutes conducted by the Agricultural Department I regard as very helpful to our farmers.

INFORMATION.

We are glad that the tide of foreign influx into this country has somewhat abated within the last few months. In our opinion, it will be a sad day for this South-land of ours when all classes of foreigners shall flood our section as they do some portions of our country. Unless a desirable class shall come to our State, it will be better for our farm-houses to be farther apart, and let future generations populate the country.

The pure American citizenship of the South is the anchor that binds this country to our best institutions.

Good citizens from other countries could help us to develop our State, but others would be a menace to our peace. We are growing and progressing about as rapidly as safety will permit, as far as a questionable citizenship is concerned.

THE FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE.

I regard the future of the Alliance as hopeful. Our worthy Lecturer, Mr. H. M. Cates, has done good service during the past year. This department is the strong arm of our work. I would recommend and urge that we keep as much of his time occupied during the coming year as possible on the field. I appeal to every Allianceman in North Carolina to take hold of the work with renewed energy. It is worth our while to help others as well as helping ourselves at the same time.

On conclusion of the address, it was, on motion, referred to the proper Committee for their consideration and action.

On motion, the hours of meeting were fixed as follows:

Meet at 8:30 p. m.; adjourn at 12:30 p. m.; reconvene at 3:00 p. m.; adjourn for supper at will; reassemble at 8:00 p. m.

Adjourned for dinner.

At 3:00 p. m. the Alliance was called to order by President Peterson.

The President announced the following committees:

On Publication.—R. H. Speight, Chairman; Oscar Hood, L. E. Tyner, H. M. Cates, and F. D. Edgerton.

On Constitution and By-Laws.—W. A. Graham, Chairman; E. A. Montgomery, and Haywood Thompson.

On Business Agency.—B. R. Edgerton, Chairman; Prof. A. R. Flowers, J. T. L. Matthews, T. D. Braxton, and J. E. D. Perry

On Alliance Organ.—J. A. Davis, Chairman; A. O. Hufham, W. B. Fleming, John Graham. and Geo. F. Parrott.

On Resolutions.—J. M. Mitchell, Chairman; J. E. Thompson, J. C. Bain, B. W. Bobbitt, and D. T. Ward.

On Education.—W. H. Tyler, Chairman; A. M. Hunter, J. R. Hines, H A. Hines, and J. S. Davis.

On Lecturing.—T. P. Johnson, Chairman; W. S. Gardner, Geo. C. Moore, J. E. Thompson, and T. M. Sykes.

The Secretary-Treasurer and State Business Agent read his report as follows:

REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER AND STATE BUSINESS AGENT.

To the Officers and Members of the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina.

Brethren:—Nine months ago I assumed charge of your affairs as Secretary-Treasurer and State Business Agent. It was a work which I approached with fear lest I should fall short of the expectations of my friends: having little experience in the art of book-keeping, with only one requisite—that of knowing right from wrong.

The amount of business done by me has not been as great as I expected; however, when we remember that a great number of our people do not buy for cash, and therefore are not acceptable customers, and when we remember that almost simultaneously with my coming into your service, the unexpected panic in the money market without just cause, without reason, without compassion it came, bearing heavily (as all ponderous weights do) on the agricultural classes, the very mud-sills of this our government. The change of our base from Raleigh to Hillsboro also

caused a falling off of business. We think no letter of inquiry for prices, etc., has gone without answer; inded, no letter of any kind has been neglected. A great many letters asking for quotations have come to us, all of which we have answered. In many instances my prices are only used to cause local dealers to sell lower. This is a great injustice to the Farmers' Alliance, and should be discountenanced, especially when my letters are shown.

Our fertilizer matter gave no little trouble and caused no small expense last winter, and was adjusted with incomplete satisfaction to me. Your able President has called your attention to this matter in his annual address.

Now then, brethren, it is up to you to deal with that matter, and should demand a full share of your time and your very best thought. My books and papers have been placed in the hands of your Executive Committee, who will report their finding.

Respectfully submitted, GEO. F. PARROTT,
Secretary-Treasurer and State Business Agent.

Lecturer Cates read his report as follows:

LECTURER'S REPORT.

To the Officers and members of the State Alliance:—

I, your Lecturer, beg leave to make the following report:

I have visited Nash, Wilson, Wayne, Johnston, Cumberland, Orange, and other counties, during the past year with gratifying results. Alamance, my home county, has taken on new life this year, and I can truthfully say that the Alliance is growing stronger each day, and that I believe the incoming year will witness greater results than any previous year in several.

President Peterson and Secretary Parrott have both been faithful servants, and have added much to our success, though we have much to do yet before the hill-top of victory is reached in bringing about a better state of affairs, socially, educationally, financially, and otherwise, among our farmers; and to this end I ask the hearty co-operation of all our people.

Fraternally, H. M. CATES,
State Lecturer.

The Trustee presented his report as follows:

REPORT OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS AGENCY FUND.

Your Trustee begs leave to report, that having received a payment of $150 on the mortgage, and invested same in bonds, the Fund now stands:

N. C. 4 per cent bonds	$11,850.00
Mortgage on Headquarter's property	7,468.00
Total investment	$19,318.00

The year's transactions have been:

Receipts.

August 1, 1907. Cash in hand	$153.71
Coupons on $11,700 N. C. 4 per cent bonds	468.00
Total receipts	$621 71

Expenditures.

Trustee's salary	$250.00
Traveling expenses	5.00
Expense to State Meeting	13.24
Postage and stationery	1.05
For $150 N. C. 4 per cent bonds	149.75
Balance in hand (cash)	202.67
Total expenditures	$621.71

Respectfully submitted, W. A. GRAHAM, Trustee.

The Executive Committee reported as follows:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

To Officers and Members of the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina.

Brethren:—We, your Executive Committee, having carefully scrutinized the books of the State Business Agent, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the report of your Trustee, beg leave to submit our findings, which we believe to be correct.

The Business Agent and the Secretary-Treasurer being the same person, the account, so far as cash account and banking are concerned, have been combined, and the Secretary and Treasurer's account is kept as an individual account in the Business Agent's books; however, we give you first the combined account, as one, of the State Business Agent and Secretary and Treasurer as follows:

Receipts.

(Parker, August 1, to November 1, 1907.)

Balance, August 1, 1907	$1,113.80
Receipts	2,067.32
Total	$3,181.12

Expenditures.

(Parker, August 1, to November 1, 1907.)

Sundry accounts	$2,401.94
Balance November 1, 1907	779.18
Total	$3,181.12

Receipts.

(Parrott, November 1, 1907, to August 1, 1908.)

Balance November 1, 1907	$779.18
Cash long, brought down from above	36.72
Making balance as per bank books	815.90
Receipts to November 1, 1907	4,635.93
Total	$5,451.83

Expenditures.

(Parrott, November 1, 1907, to August 1, 1908.)

Disbursed on sundry accounts	$2,819.81
Balance in bank and in hand	2,632.02
Total	$5,451.83

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Receipts.

(Parker, August 1, to November 1, 1907.)

Balance August 1, 1907, corrected	$489.55
Fees and dues to November 1, 1907	128.65
Rituals, etc.	65.51
Advertising in minutes	30.00
Total	$713.71

Expenditures.

(Parker, August 1, to November 1, 1907.)

Lecturing	$158.44
Expenses State Meeting	132.39
Postage and stationery	14.42
Corrections and sundry small accounts	144.27
Balance	264.19
Total	$713.71

Receipts.

(Parrott, November 1, 1907, to August 1, 1908.)

Balance November 1, 1907	$264.19
Fees and dues to August 1, 1908	461 41
Rituals, etc.	27.15
Total	$752.75

Expenditures.

(Parrott, November 1, 1907, to August 1, 1908.)

Lecturing, etc.	$237.31
Balance in hand	515.44
Total	$752.75

We find from the report of the Trustee, which appears in these Minutes, that he holds, as follows, in the—

BUSINESS AGENCY FUND.

Invested in N. C. 4 per cent bonds	$11,850.00
Mortgage on real estate	7,468.00
Total invested	$19,318.00
In hand, cash uninvested	202.67
Total invested and uninvested	$19,520.67

Not including our real estate, for which we have at this meeting of the State Alliance declined an offer of twenty thousand dollars, we have some other items which may be classed as assets, and which we will call—

MISCELLANEOUS.

These are as follows:

Office furniture and fixtures	$570.00
Chairs, cots, bedding, etc. (say)	130.00
Balances, net due on running accounts, etc.	500.00
Total miscellaneous assets	$1,200.00

How our business now stands, then, may be summed up to show our net assets, as follows:

PRESENT CONDITION.

Balance, Business Agency, net	$2,116.58
Balance, Secretary-Treasurer's account, net	515.44
Total Business Agent and Secretary-Treasurer's account combined as above	$2,632.02
Business Agent's Fund—Trustee's Report	$19,520.67
Miscellaneous items	1,200.00
Total	$23,352.69

A THOUGHT.

If from the amount in Trustee's report	$19,520.67
We should deduct or cancel the mortgage	7,468.00
We should still have left in that Fund	$12,052.67
Then add the refused price of our Home	$20,000.00
And the other assets, $2,632.02 and $1,200.00, making	3,832.02
You will find we have a neat, clean investment of	$35,884.69

Which should stimulate this organization to renewed energy and determination to make the Order, with its Fund, a much

greater benefit to ourselves and our neighbors and friends, than it is now, or has been, for some years. Evidently the Fund has been saved, and for a good purpose. Is it that we shall awake and put on our strength and make the woods ring with the sounds of our oratory from every school-house in the land as we once did? Has not the time for a great revival come? If so, buckle on your armor, and with shoulder to shoulder with your neighbor, march on to more glorious achievements than ever in our righteous undertakings; in soil preparation and the selection and the platning and the cultivation of the good seeds of honor, fidelity, sincere charity and good-will to all according to our declaration of purposes. We shall be the gainers in the end. Even now from the centre to the remotest points of our country we see legions of those in whose eyes we have been contemned, striving bitterly to gather to themselves the honor and glory of having been the founder of this, the finder of that, or the originator of the other, of the seeds from which all are now reaping the harvest. But in truth, our organization has done more in the line of initiating right and righteous movements, awaking and enlightening the masses and instilling into the people higher and nobler aims and ambitions than any other Order outside the Church of Christ in this God-favored country. And still what we have done is not enough; not a tithe of what we can do, and should do. "Whatsoever a man soweth he shall reap" "if he faint not." Let us not faint, but persevere with a purpose true. We are lagging now, and while we are listless others are reaping the harvest from the seeds we have sown and are getting the glory of it as well as the harvest. They are building on the foundation we have laid, and because of our inertia they are claiming the honors. "One layeth the foundation," you know, and "another buildeth thereupon." To whom, then, is the glory? Having laid the foundation, let us now prepare for the erection of a suitable structure thereupon, then we may claim all the honor and glory due to our enterprise.

Fraternally submitted,

For the Committee,

J. W. DENMARK, Chairman.

It having been announced that a delegation representing the Farmers' Educational and Co-operation Union of America was awaiting outside with a message for the State Alliance, on motion, the door was opened, and the visiting delegation was given a cordial welcome and their credentials were presented, which read as follows:

"Resolution passed by the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, North Carolina Division."

Following is the resolution:

Resolved, That the North Carolina Division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America assembled at

Lincolnton hereby authorize our President to appoint a committee of three on Fraternal Relations.

Resolved further, That said committee is ordered to visit the State Farmers' Alliance meeting at Hillsboro on August 11, 1908, and bear to those brethren our fraternal greetings and good wishes, and take up with them matter of closer fraternal relations between their organization and ours, asking them either to come bodily into our Order or at least co-operate with us in our plans and purposes.

And be it further resolved, That our State Secretary and Treasurer is hereby directed to pay all necessary expense of this committee incurred in the conveying of this resolution.

E. C. FAIRES, Secretary and Treasurer.

The committee appointed by President H. A. Alexander, as above-directed, are T. J. W. Broom, J. E. Broom, R. B. Hunter, and J. P. Sosaman.

I hereby certify the above resolution was unanimously adopted at our State Meeting in Lincolnton, N. C., August 6, 1908.

[Seal of the Order.]

C. E. FAIRES, Secretary-Treasurer,
North Carolina Farmers' Educational and
Co-operative Union of America.

After the reading of the above resolution, the messengers were given the floor, and for perhaps an hour or more entertained us with sound, solid, substantial, and good old-fashioned commonsense reason why our entire rural population should be thoroughly organized and united, not only for purposes of defence, but for grander and nobler objects, to-wit: those of bettering their condition, mutually, morally, financially, socially, and in any other possible way. Their speeches were a real treat which all enjoyed.

After the vistiors retired, the Committe on Fraternal Relations repored as follows:

We, your Committee on Fraternal Relations, recommend such co-operation be established between these two organizations as may be to the mutual interest of both, and that a committee of two be appointed to attend the next Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, and that the expenses of said committee be paid by our State Business Agent.

JOHN GRAHAM,
Chairman.
R. H. SPEIGHT,
JNO. A. DAVIS.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Motion by Bro. H. M. Cates that the sum of $2.67, the cost of

twenty-five copies of Revival Songs, be paid by the Secretary to Bro. J. C. Bain. Carried.

On motion of Bro. J. C. Baine, it was ordered that the Executive Committee at once have all necessary repairs done on the buildings at our Headquarters.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—J. E. Peterson, of Wayne County.

Vice-President—John A. Davis, of Edgecombe County.

Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent—Geo. F. Parrott, of Lenoir County.

Lecturer—H. M. Cates, of Alamance County.

Chaplain—C. C. Williams, of .....

Steward—J. C. Bain, of Cumberland County.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Geo. H. Lane, of Guilford County.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—D. A. Montgomery, of Guilford County.

Trustee Business Agent Fund—W. A. Graham, Lincoln County.

Executive Committee—Thos. J. Oldham, Orange County.

The Judiciary Committee appointed by newly-elected President: J. M. Mitchell, of Wayne County; C. C.McClelland, of Cumberland; F. D. Edgerton, of Franklin County.

The report of Education Committee was read and adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Education recommend the importance of urging a forward movement of agricultural education. This education being essential to the richest development of the entire State, and necessary to improved farming, nobler farming, and the sure upbuilding of the Alliance, it follows, therefore, that farmers, and especially organized farmers, must take the lead in every available agency to that end. Agencies which cannot be overlooked are agricultural literature, free discussion and the agricultural school. W. H. TYLER, Chairman,
For the Committee.

The following was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That our Executive Committee and Business Agent be requested to undertake and consummate immediate arrangements for fertilizers for the coming year and notify each County Alliance of such arrangements.

Brother Davis, for the Committee on Organ, read report, as follows:

We, your Committee on Organ, recommend that the President Appoint a permanent committee of three to procure necessary

space for the Alliance in some newspaper, and that they be authorized to make the best terms possible, and that the expenses of the committee be paid by the State Business Agent.

Adopted.

The President appointed the following Committee on Organ: Prof. John Graham, H. M. Cates, and F. D. Edgerton.

Bro. J. A. Davis offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three to prepare an address incorporating in said address: What This Organization Has Taught, What It Has Accomplished, and The Great Fundamental Principles It Still Contends For, and asking the affiliation of all kindred organizations in the future.

The President appointed on this committee the following: Brethren John A. Davis, Chairman; Thos. P. Johnston, and J. W. Denmark.

Bro. Wm. A. Graham offered the following, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved, That the State Alliance tender its heartiest thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Parrott and her taughter for our cordial entertainment during this session, and that Bro. Thos. J. Oldham be instructed to purchase and present to Mrs. Parrott, at a cost of $15.00, a suitable present, as an evidence of our sincerity, and that the Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay the same.

There being no other business before the body, the Alliance adjourned.

Note.—As is the custom, nothing is recorded in the Minutes except address of President, reports of standing committees and officers, and those motions, resolutions, etc., which are adopted.

But it should be said that President Gray, Mrs. Gray, and Professor Crawford, of the Bingham School of Mebane, N. C., visited us, and desired an option on the Headquarters property. The Executive Committee, after a conference with them, agreed to recommend that the proposition for $20,000 be accepted, subject to the approval of the Sub Alliances, to whom the matter was to be referred. The recommendation of the Executive Committee was tabled and of course ended the negotiation. As so much of our time was taken up with this matter, and so much publicity given it, I take the liberty to say this much.

J. W. DENMARK,
Chairman Executive Committee.

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